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231

Copy of a Letter from his Excy Genl Washington to Thos Chittenden Esq Phila. January 1st 1782.

Sir —

I received your favor of the 14th inst of Nov. by Mr Brownson You cannot be at a Loss to know why I have not heretofore and why I cannot now address you in your public character or answer you in mine. But the confidence you have been pleased to repose in me gives me an opportunity of offering you my sentiments as an Individual wishing most ardently to See the peace and Union of this Country preserved & the just rights of the people of every part of it fully and firmly established —

It is not ~~in~~ my ~~power~~ business, neither do I think it necessary now to discuss the origin of right of a number of Inhabitants to that tract of Country formerly distinguished by the name of the New-Hampshire Grants & now known by the name of Vermont. I will take it for granted that their right was good because Congress by their resolve of the 7th of August last imply it & by that of the 24th are willing fully to confirm it provided the new State is confined to certain described Bounds. It appears therefore to me that the dispute of boundary is the only one that exists & that being remedied all further difficulties would be removed also & the matter terminated to the satisfaction of all parties. Now I would ask you candidly whether the claim of the people of Vermont was not confined for a long time solely or very nearly to that tract of Country which is described in the Resolves of Congress of the 24th of August last & whether agreeable to the tenor of your own letter to me the late extension of your claim upon New-Hampshire and New-York was not more a political manoeuvre than one in which you conceived yourselves Justifiable. If my first question be answered in the affirmative it certainly bars your new claim & if my second be well founded your end is answered & you have nothing to do but withdraw your Jurisdiction to the confines of your ole limits & obtain an acknowledgement of Independence and Sovereignty under the resolve of the 24th of August for so much Territory as does not interfere with the ancient established bounds of New-York. New-Hampshire & Massachusetts I persuade myself you will see and acquiesce in the reason Justice and indeed

the necessity of such a decision.

You must consider Sir that the point now in dispute is of the utmost political importance to the future union and peace of this great Country - The State of Vermont if acknowledged will be the first new one admitted into the confederacy & if suffered to encroach upon the ancient established boundaries of the adjacent ones will serve as a precedent for others which it may hereafter be expedient to set off to make the same unjustifiable demands - By this in my private opinion while it behooves the Delegates of the States now confederated to do ample Justice to a Body of people sufficiently respectable by their numbers & entitled by other claims to be admitted into that Confederation it becomes them also to attend to the Interests of their constituents & see that under the appearance of Justice to one they do not materially injure the rights of others. I am apt to think this is the prevailing opinion of Congress, & that your late extension of claim has upon the principles I have above mentioned rather diminished than increased your friends & that if such extension should be persisted in it will be made a common cause & not considered as only affecting the rights of those States immediately interested in the Lofs of Territory a Lofs of too serious a nature not to claim the attention of any people. There is no calamity within the compass of my foresight which is more to be dreaded than a necessity of coercion on the part of Congress & consequently every endeavor should be used to prevent the execution of so disagreeable a measure it must involve the ruin of that State against which the resentment of the others is pointed. I will only add a few words upon the subject of the negotiation which have been carried on between you & the Enemy in Canada & in New-York. I will take it for granted as you assert it that were so far innocent that there never was any serious intention of joining Great Britain in their attempts to subjugate your Country. But it has had this certain bad tendency it has served to give some grounds to that delusive opinion of the Enemy & upon which they in a great measure founed their hopes of success that they have numerous friends among us who only want a proper opportunity to show themselves openly & that internal disputes & feuds will soon break us in pieces at the same time the seeds of distrust and jealousy are scattered among ourselves by a conduct of this kind. If you are sincere in your professions there will be additional motives for accepting the terms which have been offered (and which appear to me equitable) & thereby convincing

231 [illegible]

the common Enemy that all their expectations of disunion are vain & that they have been worsted at their own Weapon - deception -

As you unbosomed yourself to me I thought I had the greater right of speaking my sentiments openly and candidly to you. I have done so & if they should produce the effects which most sincerely wish, that of an Honorable and amicable adjustment of a matter which if carried out to hostile lengths may destroy the future happiness of my Country I shall have attained my end while my other Enemy will be defeated of theirs -

Believe me to be with great respect.

Sir, your most obedient Servant

G. Washington

To the Hon^ble. Thomas Chittenden Esq^r Vermont.

I do certify the preceding to be a true copy of the original draft in my charge.

Richard Varick. Record. Secy.

to his Excellency Gen^l Washington

Poughkeepsie. Feb. 10th. 1789

231

In Board of War Feb. 22d 1782.

Resolved that it be and it is hereby recommended to the Hon. Gen.l Assembly now setting in Bennington that this State raise one Battalion consisting of five Hundred and fourteen men officers included for the defence of the State the ensuing Campaign to be Commanded by one Lieut. Col. Com.t one Major 8 Captains and 16 subalterns. that they continue in Service till the 15th day of Dec. next unless sooner discharged. that each Town in this State raise equip and pay their equal proportion of the aforesaid Battalion according to their List given into the Assembly in Oct 1781. that the Gen.l Assembly appoint some suitable Person to repair immediately to Maj Gen.l Heath or to the Commanding Officer of the Northern department and request of him to furnish this State with 2000 Continental Arms with a sufficient quantity of Ammunition. that the Fort at Pittsford be moved to Capt Johnathan Fassetts House in said Pittsford

Extract from the Minutes
John Grant Lee. P. Sec.y